



HEALTH AFFAIRS

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301-1200

8 MAR 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (M&RA)  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (M&RA)  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (MRAI&E)

SUBJECT: Drug Urinalysis Testing Levels

For the past several years, the drug testing laboratories have been using initial and confirmatory test levels that were based on the best technical information and capability available at that time. Improvements in the specificity and sensitivity of both the initial test kits and gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (GC/MS) procedures allow accurate identification of several drugs using lower testing levels. The DoD Biochemical Testing Advisory Committee discussed the current testing levels and has recommended that several testing levels be changed. The changes recommended are within the scientific capability of the testing procedures and would impact directly on the number of specimens reported positive. This latter effect should significantly increase the deterrence aspects of the drug testing program.

The following testing levels are effective 1 January 1992:

	Initial Test Level
	(ng/ml)
Amphetamines	500 (currently 1000)
Barbiturates	200
Cannabinoids	50 (currently 100)
Cocaine	150 (currently 300)
Opiates	300
Phencyclidine	25
LSD	0.5

	Confirmatory Test Level
	(ng/ml)
Amphetamine/Methamphetamine	500
Barbiturates	200
11-nor-delta 9-tetrahydro-cannabinol-9-carboxylic acid	15
Benzoyllecgonine	100 (currently 150)
6-Monoacetylmorphine	10
Codeine	300 (currently 2000)
Morphine	300 (currently 4000)
LSD	0.4

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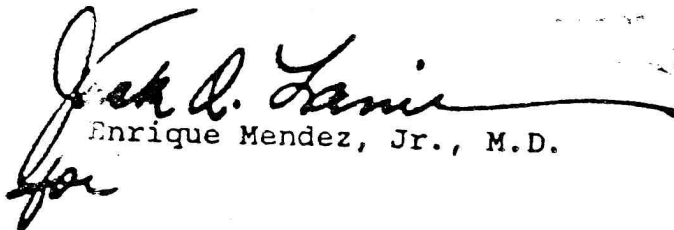
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The return to the 300 ng/ml confirmatory test level for both codeine and morphine requires the Services to implement measures ensuring that positives potentially generated by ordinary dietary poppy seed consumption will be reviewed by appropriate medical personnel.

The 1 January 1992 effective date was selected to allow sufficient time for the radioimmunoassay test kit manufacturers to reformulate and obtain FDA approval for those initial test levels that have been changed and to allow the laboratories to implement appropriate changes in their laboratory procedures.

Any laboratory currently testing civilian urinalysis specimens, which is required to adhere to drug testing levels for civilian samples in accordance with the Department of Health and Human Services "Mandatory Guidelines for Federal Workplace Drug Testing Programs," April 11, 1988, shall make provision for the different testing levels at that laboratory or eliminate testing civilian specimens. If civilian testing is eliminated at any laboratory presently conducting such tests, sufficient notice shall be given to the agency or agencies using the laboratory so that alternative laboratory services can be arranged.

  
Enrique Mendez, Jr., M.D.

Coordination: \_\_\_\_\_

Office of General Counsel: RLJ/llh 2/21/91